

## **Chapter 13a**

### **Success Stipend Program Act**

#### **53B-13a-101 Title.**

This chapter is known as the "Success Stipend Program Act."

Amended by Chapter 11, 2011 General Session

#### **53B-13a-102 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

- (1)
  - (a) "Cost of attendance" means the estimated costs associated with attending an institution, as established by the institution in accordance with board policies.
  - (b) "Cost of attendance" includes costs payable to the institution, other direct educational expenses, transportation, and living expenses while attending the institution.
- (2)
  - (a) "Eligible student" means a financially needy student who is:
    - (i) unconditionally admitted to and enrolled at a Utah postsecondary institution on at least a half-time basis, as defined by the board, in an eligible postsecondary program leading to a defined education or training objective, as defined by the board;
    - (ii) making satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the institution in published policies or rules, toward an education or training objective; and
  - (iii)
    - (A) a resident student under Section 53B-8-102 and rules of the board; or
    - (B) exempt from paying the nonresident portion of total tuition under Section 53B-8-106.
  - (b) "Eligible student" does not include a graduate student.
- (3) "Financially needy student" means a student who demonstrates the financial inability to meet all or a portion of the cost of attendance at an institution for any period of attendance as defined by the board, after considering the student's expected family contribution.
- (4) "Fiscal year" means the fiscal year of the state.
- (5) "Program" means the Success Stipend Program.
- (6) "Utah postsecondary institution" or "institution" means:
  - (a) an institution of higher education listed in Section 53B-2-101; or
  - (b) a Utah private, nonprofit postsecondary institution that is accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the board.

Amended by Chapter 11, 2011 General Session

#### **53B-13a-103 Establishment of the Success Stipend Program.**

- (1) The Legislature finds that:
  - (a) the prosperity, economic success, and general welfare of the people of Utah and of the state are directly related to the educational levels and skills of the citizens of the state; and
  - (b) financial assistance, to bridge the gap between a financially needy student's resources and the cost of attendance at a Utah postsecondary institution, is a necessary component for ensuring access to postsecondary education and training.

- (2) There is created the Success Stipend Program to provide financial assistance to students who, after utilizing family and personal resources, federal assistance, and scholarships, demonstrate financial need.

Amended by Chapter 11, 2011 General Session

**53B-13a-104 Guidelines for administration of the program.**

- (1) The board shall use the guidelines set forth in this section to develop and administer the program.
- (2)
  - (a) The board shall allocate money appropriated for the program to institutions to provide for either need-based grants or need-based work-study stipends, giving strong emphasis to need-based work-study stipends.
  - (b) Need-based grants or need-based work-study stipends are the only forms of student financial assistance for which program money may be used.
  - (c) The board may not use program money for administrative costs or overhead.
  - (d) An institution may not use more than 3% of its program money for administrative costs or overhead.
- (3) The board shall design the program to utilize a packaging approach that ensures that institutions combine loans, grants, employment, and family and individual contributions toward financing the cost of attendance at a postsecondary institution.
- (4) The board shall:
  - (a) use an appropriate need analysis system to determine a student's financial need for the purpose of awarding a program grant or work-study stipend; and
  - (b) base the criteria for awarding program funds to an institution or eligible student on assisting only the most financially needy students.
- (5) The total sum of a program grant, a work-study stipend, other financial aid from any source, and the expected family and personal contribution, may not exceed the cost of attendance for an eligible student at an institution for a fiscal year.
- (6) The board shall establish annually the minimum and maximum amounts for a program grant and a work-study stipend for the fiscal year.
- (7) An institution shall award a program grant or work-study stipend on an annual basis but distribute the money one quarter or semester at a time, with continuing awards contingent upon the eligible student maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution in published policies or rules.
- (8) An institution shall award all program money without regard to an applicant's race, creed, color, religion, sex, or ancestry.
- (9) Students receiving financial assistance under the program are required to apply the money toward the cost of attendance at the institution attended, as established pursuant to board rules.
- (10) The board shall adopt policies to implement this chapter and to ensure sound fiduciary administration of program money to accomplish program objectives.
- (11) The board may require a participation agreement from an eligible postsecondary institution, which shall include an agreement to:
  - (a) provide information needed by the board to administer the program;
  - (b) comply with program rules;
  - (c) submit annual reports as required by the board; and

- (d) cooperate in program reviews and financial audits as the board may determine to be necessary.
- (12) The board shall annually report program outcomes to the governor and the Legislature's Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, including:
  - (a) utilization of program money, including the:
    - (i) number of program recipients at each institution; and
    - (ii) average amount of financial assistance provided;
  - (b) benefits in fulfillment of the purposes established for the program; and
  - (c) any recommendations for program modification, including recommended funding levels.
- (13) The board shall regularly provide information to students on professional training and degree programs available in the state through online career and educational exploration tools.

Amended by Chapter 11, 2011 General Session

**53B-13a-105 Disbursal of financial aid -- Additional resources.**

- (1) The board shall allocate the money available under the program to each Utah postsecondary institution in the same proportion as the amount of Pell Grant money received by the institution for resident undergraduate students during the most recently completed fiscal year that Pell Grants were given bears to the total Pell Grant money received by all Utah postsecondary institutions for resident undergraduate students during that same year.
- (2) The board may accept grants, gifts, bequests, and devises of real and personal property from any source for the purpose of granting student financial aid in addition to that funded by the state.

Amended by Chapter 10, 2004 General Session